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002198

MEMORANDUM

TO: Ken Klein

FROM: Jim Kelly and Andy Purdy

DATE: August 29, 1977

RE: Interview with Dr. Robert F. Karnei, Jr., Naval Hospital, Bethesda, Maryland, 10:30 A.M., August 23, 19

PHOTOS
KARNEI
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Dr. Karnei was interviewed because of his participation in the autopsy of President Kennedy. Dr. Karnei resides at 1605 Arbor View Road, Wheaton, Maryland 20902 (home phone: 942-8479).

Dr. Karnei was called to the Admiral's office at approximately 5:30 P.M. on November 22, 1963 and told to report to the Admiral's office. There Admiral Galloway told him that Dr. Humes and Dr. Boswell would be performing the autopsy on the President. Dr. Karnei said he would normally have been the one to do the autopsy. Instead, his role became that of liaison for various people involved with the autopsy. He stationed Marine guards at the door near the elevator, at the back door, in the passageway, and at the door by the staircase. He was told by Admiral Kinney, the Surgeon General of the Navy, to station the guards and keep everyone out. Dr. Karnei recalls newsmen coming from the old to the new morgue and his efforts to stop them. The newsmen said they got permission from the C.O. to be in the area and Dr. Karnei told them that the

PAGE 5 - THEY WERE PUTTING PROBES THRU THE BODY
[illegible] DRAWING THE DRIBE IN

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Dr. Karnei said he observed some of the autopsy but had no recollection of any metal fragments or any sectioning being done. He said such sectioning normally occurs the following day. He did recall a Chief Mason being around and "...thinks Benson actually cut the slides... that day or the day after."

Dr. Karnei doesn't "...know if any limitations were placed on how the autopsy was to be done." He said he didn't know who was running things.

Dr. Karnei recalls the body having been placed on the table which he said was normally followed by the residents checking for scars, etc. before the doctors start. He recalls a "...Secret Service man assigned to watch the tissue processor...all night." He said they were "...always present during the processing." They apparently wanted to prevent the taking of artifacts.

Dr. Karnei does not recall any note-taking around the table (he was standing against the wall near the table at the time). He remembers a phone being present on the wall about 3 1/2 - 4 feet away from the table but doesn't remember anyone using it. He also said there was a phone in the ante room.